



Saving Grace Animals for Adoption

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Wake Forest, NC 27587
919-518-1180
host@savinggracenc.org
<http://www.savinggracenc.org/>

FAQs about the Saving Grace Weekend Host Program

Which dogs go into the Saving Grace Weekend Host Program?

- Dogs who have been at SG for a while and would most benefit from one on one time in a home
- Dogs who would most benefit from a low key, calm environment
- Dogs who need additional exercise or socialization
- Dogs who need publicity and a chance to get out and about and meet potential adopters or need photos/videos/write ups to boost interest in them from potential adopters

Can I pick the dog I want to host?

No. Dogs available for weekend host are pre-selected for which dogs will benefit most from the time in a home. Your requests for size/age/energy level and compatibility with resident pets and family will be considered and your dog will be assigned to match those needs. We cannot guarantee a specific dog request, breed, gender or size as we have adoption appointments right up until pick up and never know who will still be available for host until that time.

Can I keep my host dog longer than just the weekend?

No. We want to give our dogs the best opportunity for adoption, therefore they need to be at the farm during the week when adoptions are taking place. The only time we allow for longer fostering is when we have a weather crisis, cruelty case, or other special needs for overcrowding and need to get dogs out for their well-being or to take in other dogs suffering in disaster/cruelty cases/overcrowding in rural shelters. The drop off time for weekend fostering is generally Sunday around 7:00pm or Monday around 1:00PM, specific times will be emailed to you once you confirm based on your desired return date. We must know when you pick up the dog on Friday what time you plan to drop the dog back off. Occasionally we have different pick up or drop off times if it is a holiday weekend or special host event. We will state this in the email we send if different time options are available.

What if my host dog becomes sick?

We request you contact our weekend host team at host@savinggracenc.org . **DO NOT take the dog to your vet or emergency clinic, because we will be unable to cover your costs.** Please contact our host team if you are faced with an emergency that must be addressed prior to returning the dog.

Can I take the dog out of town?

No.

Can I host a dog if I don't live in the Wake Forest area?

Yes, but we do ask that you are within 1 hour driving time to our location in case any emergencies arise with you or the dog.

What supplies will Saving Grace give to weekend host families?

We are happy to provide a crate, leash and will harness the dog before he or she leaves with you. We depend 100% on donations for all food we have at Saving Grace, and with many dogs on site and in long term foster, our supply is almost always limited. If you can supply food for your dog during their stay, we would greatly appreciate it. If you are in a position where you cannot supply food, please let us know and we will absolutely send you with some!

What if I decide to adopt my dog, will I get a discount for hosting?

As much as we would like to give discounts, especially to our wonderful weekend hosts, we can't do this and cover costs for spaying/neutering, heartworm treatments, monthly preventions and medications, housing and food for all the dogs in the program.

What if I fall in love with my host dog and want to adopt?

If you are sure you want to adopt your host dog, you will need to submit an adoption request through our website: <https://savinggracenc.org/how-to-adopt/> . Once the application is submitted, please let our host team know so they can coordinate with the adoption team and get back to you on next steps. This process allows for your application to be seen and attended to more promptly. Adoption is not guaranteed but we will do our very best to make the adoption possible.

Do I have to use a crate with my host dog?

- Whenever you are unable to supervise the dog, it should be crated. Many of the dogs are not used to living in a home and many will be anxious at first. They are crated while at Saving Grace and the crate is a consistent, comfortable place for them.

- Crate training is recommended because it helps the dog learn behaviors that will make him/her more adoptable. Some adult dogs are already housebroken, but the crate helps reinforce good behavior and creates the dog's own special space.
- If you do not have a crate we are happy to loan you one for the weekend.
- If there are other pets in the home, you MUST feed your host dog in their crate. Take up and dispose of any uneaten food before allowing dogs in the same area. This also goes for treats and bones. Even the most well-mannered/well socialized dogs will guard food from other dogs. Please remember to set your dog up for success and prevent any potential unsafe situations before they arise.

Will Saving Grace pay for any damage a host dog does to my carpet or furniture?

We can't be responsible for any damage done by the dog to any personal property.

What are the most important things to teach my host dog?

The time you spend teaching your dog to sit, greet others politely and walk on a leash is invaluable to the dog's adoptability. Some dogs may need help and patience with other things such as consistent potty training or nervousness. Positive, human interactions, praise and love will increase the confidence of your shelter dog.

Can I get follow-up information about the adopter to find out how my host dog is doing in his/her permanent home?

For reasons of privacy we can't give out contact information. We encourage our adopters, however, to submit "Happy Tails" stories and pictures on our Saving Grace website.

Are all the Saving Grace dogs up to date on vaccines and preventatives?

Yes. All dogs have all required vaccines and boosters and are started on preventative treatment for fleas/ticks and heartworm upon coming on site and into our program.

Some of our dogs on site are being treated for kennel cough with antibiotics, which is common in a shelter environment. We recommend all homes fostering/hosting a shelter pet have all resident pets up to date on vaccinations (particularly Bordetella) and contact your vet for specific questions. We want to ensure the well-being and health of all animals including residents in the foster homes.

Although we do start all dogs on preventatives once they come to us, they have not had any regular medical care until arriving at Saving Grace. It can take a couple of rounds for the

preventative meds to help with any current health situations in some cases. Dogs are treated further with other medications as needed once we become aware of issues.

Can I give my host dog a bath?

Yes – but only if the dog has not recently (within the last 10 days) had surgery. The incision must remain dry to heal properly. In some cases, sponge baths are ok as well if the site stays dry.

For grooming by a professional, you will need to contact us to get a copy of their current rabies certificate.

Can I bring my dog to pick up to make sure they get along?

No. There is too much going on at Saving Grace in our parking lot area for it to be a good place for dogs to meet. It is an anxious environment with new people and things happening and multiple Saving Grace dogs being moved out during this time.

What is the best way to introduce the dogs once we get our host dog home?

Keep this meeting on neutral territory like a neighbor's yard or down the street away from your home on a walk. Have both dogs on straight (not retractable) leashes, keeping the leashes somewhat loose since tension on the leash might communicate to the dogs you are fearful or anxious about their meeting which can make the dog anxious. Take the dogs for a walk together, keeping 10 feet between them so that they can't greet each other or stare. Then, cross paths (still maintaining distance) and allow the dogs to smell where the other has walked. The idea is to acclimate them to each other's presence without causing tension.

We do not recommend having them greet each other on leash nose to nose. This type of meeting can be very stressful for many dogs and can cause fear or reactions to being scared and defensive.

Contacts:

Our office is closed over the weekend, but our weekend host coordinators consistently monitor the host email to address any concerns.

host@savinggracenc.org